

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 21-135V

FRANCISCO SALGADO,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: April 23, 2024

Maximillian J. Muller, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.

Jamica Marie Littles, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS¹

On January 6, 2021, Francisco Salgado filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleged that he suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration caused by an influenza vaccine administered on October 11, 2019. Petition at 1. On January 30, 2024, I issued a decision awarding compensation to Petitioner based on the parties’ stipulation. ECF No. 43.

¹Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2018).

Petitioner has now filed a motion for attorney's fees and costs, requesting an award of \$14,849.90 (representing \$14,225.70 for fees and \$624.20 for costs). Application for Attorneys' Fees filed Mar. 4, 2024 ECF No. 47. Counsel for Petitioner represents that Petitioner incurred no personal out-of-pocket expenses. *Id.* at 2. Respondent did not file a response to Petitioner's Motion thereafter.

The rates requested for work performed through the end of 2023 are reasonable and consistent with prior determinations, and will therefore be adopted. Petitioner has also requested the hourly rate of \$450 for work performed by attorney Maximillian Muller in 2024, representing a rate increase of \$25; and the hourly rate of \$177 for paralegal work performed by Tereza Pavlasek in 2024. I find these hourly rates to be reasonable. And all time billed to the matter was also reasonably incurred. Furthermore, Petitioner has provided supporting documentation for all claimed costs. Motion at 14-19. Respondent offered no specific objection to the rates or amounts sought.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs for successful claimants. Section 15(e). Accordingly, I hereby GRANT Petitioner's Motion for attorney's fees and costs. I award a total of **\$14,849.90 (representing \$14,225.70 for fees and \$624.20 in costs) as a lump sum in the form of a check jointly payable to Petitioner and Petitioner's counsel, Maximillian J. Muller.** In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review (see Appendix B to the Rules of the Court), the Clerk of Court shall enter judgment in accordance with this Decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties may expedite entry of judgment by filing a joint notice renouncing their right to seek review.